

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure section starting at page 28, line 2 and ending at page 28, line 16 to read, as follows.

--An image formation apparatus and method ~~forms for forming~~ an image on a recording medium and includes a toner applying ~~comprises a first step for applying fusible powder toner to a recording medium to form a toner image, a semi-fixing step for semi-fixing the toner image, an ink applying a second step for applying liquid ink containing a coloring material to the recording medium to form an ink image, and a thermal fixing third step for thermally performing thermal fixing [[of]] an image formed by the toner applying step and the ink applying step. first and second steps, carried out in sequence. An apparatus for carrying out the method comprises a first unit for applying fusible powder toner to a recording medium to form a toner image, a unit for semi-fixing the toner image, a second unit for applying liquid ink containing a coloring material to the recording medium to form an ink image, and a third unit for performing thermal fixing of an image formed by the first and second units, in sequence.--~~